

VISIT TO THE TOWER OF LONDON.

Possibly the attractions of skating proved too strong for would-be attendants at the meeting to view the Tower on February 3rd, as there were but six present—Mrs. Hall, Misses Mulloney, Nesbit, Thomasset, Young, and Davis. Thanks to a special permit, kindly procured by Miss Bernau, we were able to see a great deal under the guidance of a very portly Beefeater. His stories of the horrors inflicted on those imprisoned in the dungeons of the Tower made us glad to see daylight again, though we were very interested to learn from the armour hung in the dungeons that it had been used as recently as 1815, being captured from the French at Waterloo. The chapel in the White Tower was especially interesting as being one of the most perfect Norman remains in the kingdom (so we were assured). It is used every Sunday by the Nonconformist soldiers stationed in the Tower. The Crown jewels, of course, came in for a good deal of attention, and we were also able to see the Coronation robes of Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra. The latter's appeared to us the more magnificent, as the long train was most beautifully worked with small gold crowns.

We also visited the Beauchamp Tower and tried to decipher the inscriptions carved by the illustrious prisoners who were confined there. Altogether it was most interesting and we wished that our party had been considerably bigger.

LETTER TO THE STUDENTS.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Last autumn I was put on the Countryside Committee of the Children's Country Holiday Fund as your representative. As you probably know, this Committee exists in order to awaken in the children who go away through the C.C.H.F. a love of

nature and a power of observing the beauties and real interests of the country. Helpers are badly needed—(1) To give nature talks or lantern lectures during the next few months; (2) to conduct parties of children for rambles near London during the spring and summer months; (3) to interest any children who may be in your neighbourhood during the last week in July and the first three weeks in August by taking them for walks and training their eyes and ears to see and listen to country sights and sounds. It is for this first object that immediate help is wanted. The secretary, Mrs. Douglas Wilson, has written a very urgent letter asking for somebody who will take one or two lectures off her shoulders before Easter. Will you come forward and help her? The children's idea of the country is so curious, and they want teaching before they go in order that they may really come back with new ideas to brighten their lives amidst their dreary surroundings. So often they tell us when they get back that "we got plenty to eat down there" or "we went for a long walk and killed some frogs." They look upon every creature as a victim which they must either kill or bring home in a pocket-handkerchief to be stored in a box until it dies. Please write and offer your services to Mrs. Douglas Wilson, 17, Buckley Road, N.W.

Before ending my letter I must thank you all for again sending my children such substantial help. Miss Wood sent 26s. 6d. just before Christmas, and it was most acceptable. I spent some of it on a parcel of groceries, etc., for a poor widow with one child who has a terrible struggle to make both ends meet. She would have had no Christmas dinner if it had not been for your gift. Some went towards our Christmas parties, which were very numerous, and thoroughly enjoyed by about 600 children of all sizes and ages. I did not spend any on toys this year, as I had a great many things sent. The *Evening News* gave us 100 things, and we had a few besides, so that altogether the children have had a very good time this Christmas. I am keeping some of your

money in reserve for a time when our toy cupboard wants replenishing. I think it will perhaps be a good plan to spend some of it on outdoor games when the weather gets warm. We have two evenings a week for the children to come and play—in the winter in the schools, and in the summer in the playground, and it is always rather difficult to know what to do out of doors. I will write you another letter when I spend the rest of the money. Again thanking you—Yours affectionately,

MABEL CONDER.

LETTER FROM PRESENT STUDENTS.

SCALE HOW,

February 13th, 1912.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

It must always be odd to return at the beginning of the year and miss so many familiar faces, but new friends fill "St. George's," and by now we feel as if things had been as they are for quite a long time.

The Sunday after our arrival we all went into the drawing-room at 2 o'clock, while Miss Mason looked through the book-shelves recommending works that were especially interesting. These included books of travel, history, and biography, etc., and were an indication of what makes profitable reading. There have been various other 2 o'clock visits to the drawing-room, once to hear Mr. Oscar Browning's report for last year, another day for Mr. Thornley's, and again for the Senior and Junior "final" results.

Doubtless many have been thinking of Ambleside, and especially Rydal, during the late cold weather, for after two nights of frost skating began and continued for nearly a week. When one day at the end of dinner Miss Mason announced that the ice would "bear" there was great excitement and clamour, but almost immediately silence reigned throughout the college for students were hurrying

along the Rydal Road, skates in hand. As the high wind made skating rather difficult it was amusing to watch the lighter people being blown hither and thither.

On January 18th nearly all the students went to the Grasmere dialect play, entitled this year "On Second Thoughts," a repetition of that of 1905. It was, as usual, most interesting with quaint and delightful local touches—for example, the preparations for the "rush bearing" and the auction where tea was handed "roond," presumably to encourage the bidding. Those of us who saw it last year recognised many of the actors, and found the dialect easier to understand.

There have been six drawing-room evenings; a musical one from the Juniors; "The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines," by Miss Aldridge; "English Monasticism," by Miss Frost; "Literary Associations of the Lake District," by Miss Bell; a musical evening, in which both Juniors and Seniors took part; and "Twelfth Night."

The Poetry Club continues to meet once a fortnight, when the classroom looks quite gay from the number of flowers lent from the bedrooms, everyone helping to make it a small festivity. "Wordsworth" and "De Quincey" have already been read, while "Translations from the Oriental Poets" is the next subject chosen. The new proposition, that one meeting a term should be devoted to papers and discussion on some question of the day, was received with acclamation.

Near the beginning of term the "Peewits" gave a reception on Lough Rigg to the newcomers, when the scheme of scouting was explained round a blazing camp fire and roasted potatoes were enjoyed by everyone; by now nearly all the Juniors have joined and many tassels are being worked for.

There have been about nine games of hockey, which were much enjoyed owing to the full number on both sides and the enthusiasm of the players. Some time this term we hope to have a match, Seniors *v.* Juniors.

Great excitement was caused five weeks ago by the appearance of an eagle in the neighbourhood, and hope led many people to think they saw it, but there was no certainty on this point. It has not been seen now for some time, and we hope it has not fallen a victim to some gamekeeper's zeal.

People are making half-term plans, and some very strenuous things are being proposed; Keswick and Furness will, as usual, claim a certain number of those who wish to train or coach, but the majority think with delight of walking or cycling to distant spots like the Wrynose Pass and Ullswater. The birds on the Scale How list for this term number twenty-eight, and the flowers nineteen.—Yours sincerely,

THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

THE WINCHESTER GATHERING.

COMING OF AGE OF THE P.U.S., 1891-1912.

MAY 6TH, 7TH, 8TH, 9TH, 1912.

Arrangements for this gathering are now in hand, and it is hoped that a very delightful and useful celebration will be held. The response has already been very cheering to the organisers, and it is expected that a very large number will be present.

There is to be an Exhibition of Handicrafts, to which old pupils of the P.U.S. will also be asked to send drawings, etc., to make an Old Scholars' Show, which will form part of the general Exhibition. Entries for this are to be sent to Miss Parish, 26, Victoria Street, S.W., *before April 29th*, and the exhibits themselves are to be sent to Miss Wix, c/o the Porter, The Guildhall, Winchester, by *May 3rd*. Each exhibit must have the full name of the exhibitor attached to it, and a stamped addressed label for the return journey must be sent with each parcel.

THE WINCHESTER GATHERING

The price of tickets admitting to all proceedings will be as follows:—

2s. for each child and adult.

5s. for family ticket where there are more than two children. Members of the Central Branch of the P.N.E.U. and ex-students will receive a complimentary ticket.

It is obvious that arrangements will be facilitated by members notifying as promptly as possible the number, age, and class of the children who will attend. They should write to Miss Parish, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

MONDAY.

5.30-6.30.—Miss Marie Shedlock on "Fairy Tales" and Arthurian Legends.

8.30-9.30.—The Hon. Lily Montagu on "Social Work." A lecture to older girls.

TUESDAY.

9.30-10.15.—Service in the Cathedral, conducted by the Dean.

10.30-11.30.—Lessons to all five classes.

11.30-12.—Morris dancing and folk songs.

12.—Paper for adults by Miss Mason. Children can be taken out for walks.

2.30.—Expeditions.

5-6.—Miss Turner on "Birds." Lantern lecture.

8-9.30.—Miss Chaplin on "Jane Austen."

WEDNESDAY.

9.30-10.—Hymns, and talk on P.U.S. Motto, by Miss Parish.

10-11.—Lessons.

11-11.30.—Songs and dancing.

11.30-12.45.—"Musical Appreciation," by Mrs. Howard Glover.

5-7.—Fancy Dress Party.

8-9.30.—Committee "At Home" to adults.

11.30-12.—Farewell talk.

12-1.—Visit to the Cathedral.

Afternoon.—Expeditions.

The G.W.R. and L.S.W.R. have consented to issue return tickets at the rate of a single fare and a third between Winchester and any station on their lines. Arrangements are also being made for accommodation in Winchester. The meetings will all be held in the Guildhall.

Mrs. Clement Parsons, 17, Blomfield Road, London, W., has very kindly consented to help in the management of the Fancy Dress Party. She will give advice as to dresses, which must be simple and inexpensive and represent characters connected with the history of Winchester and its neighbourhood. Members are asked to communicate direct with Mrs. Clement Parsons stating age, height and colouring, and choice of costume.

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BOOK LIST.

"Reason in Architecture." Jackson.

"Essays on Architecture." Bloomfield.

"English Cathedrals." Bond.

Three very interesting books on architecture, the first two dealing more with the human than the technical side.

"A Romance of the Nursery." Allan Harker.

"Concerning Paul and Fiametta." Allan Harker.

Published by John Murray.

Two interesting character studies of rather exceptional children.

"Woman's Labour." By Olive Schreiner.

Fisher Unwin. 8s. 6d.

An interesting and inspiring book dealing with the place of woman in the world in a very wide way from the historical point of view.

"The Seven Dreamers." Slosson.

Published by Harper.

A charming collection of character studies.

"A Diplomatist's Wife in Many Lands." By Mrs. Hugh Fraser.

Published by Hutchinson, being the experiences of the sister of Marion Crawford.

"What is and what might be." Holmes.

NOVELS.

"Valerie Upton" and "Tante." Sedgwick.

"The Beloved Vagabond" and "Simon." W. Locke.

"Queed." By Harrison.

All quite worth reading.

E. A. PYPER.

"Winchester." Pictured by Ernest Haslehurst, described by Sidney Heath.

Blackie & Sons.

A very nice book and well done.

E. FLOWER.

NOTES ON CRITICISM LESSONS.

Anyone who presumes to talk about such persons as Keats, Shelley, Browning, etc., must read the quotations beautifully. For you cannot separate beauty from beauty, and to read a poem badly might be compared to the description of a picture in terms of mathematics.

French must be taught in a French atmosphere, and the keynote of that atmosphere is vivacity.

When the teacher is in excess of the matter taught, the lesson is not taken: "Oh, mother, if you didn't explain quite so much!"

The value of carton.—Little children work at random, but when they can work according to rule it is a great departure. It is thought that it is grown-up to get rid of that restriction, but this is a misconception.